

APPLICATION NO. 09/826,277  
DOCKET NO. N8753

content and any gradients can initiate microcracks during thermal/moisture cycling.

Woods impregnates with a curable sealant that in theory fills 95% of the pore volume after infusion (see paragraph 0043). The invention of the rejected claims involves initially filling the pores to a much lower level using a suitable carrier solvent. This fundamental difference permits the manipulation of the final article morphology by varying pre-embossing/calendering void conditions. By varying this initial void condition in the resin-impregnated graphite, the pre-embossing morphology can be manipulated, which ultimately allows control of the morphology of the final article. The methods of the rejected claims allow the production of a void-free finished article with different morphological possibilities. This is not outlined or possible using information provided by Woods.

### CONCLUSION

Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that all pending claims 1-18 are in condition for allowance. Such action is earnestly sought. If there remains any matter which prevents the allowance of any of these claims, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned, collect, at 615-242-2400 to arrange for an interview which may expedite prosecution.

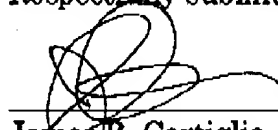
The Office Action to which this paper is responsive was originally mailed on September 29, 2003; however, the original Office Action was mailed to an incorrect address, and not the address specified in the Change of Correspondence Address mailed June 2003. Applicant did not receive the Action until it was provided by

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Examiner Boss by telefax on December 22, 2003; thus, this response should be considered timely.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment associated with the filing of this Response to Deposit Account 50-1202.

Respectfully submitted,



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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this Response to Office Action is being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office, Fax No. 703-872-9306.

James R. Cartiglia



Signature

Registration Number 30,738

22 March 04

Date